evaluated by an Evaluation Committee. Thereafter, the recommended proposals are placed before a'selection committee comprising of senior officers of Doordarshan and three outside experts from the fields of film, TV production, literature, dramatics, broadcasting etc. for decision.

Dealing of cable operators

†396. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are experiencing certain hurdles in implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS) and as a result thereof the consumers are being eploited due to arbitrary dealing by the .cable operators;

(b) if so, whether Government are making an arrangement where by the viewers would be able to view most of the channels through "Doordarshan"; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Conditional Access System (CAS) is currently operational in Chennai city only.

(b) and (c) The Government had sanctioned the KU band transmission project of Doordarshan at an estimated cost of Rs. 164 crores in November, 2003. The project permits the distribution of 30 free to air channels *i.e.* 17 Doordarshan channels and 13 channels of private broadcasters. The number of channels is likely to go upto 40. A subscriber does not have to pay any monthly subscription fee for viewing the channels.

DTH telecast regime

397. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct to Home (DTH) telecast regime is presently under implementation throughout the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and the benefits envisaged for the viewers under DTH regime;

(c) whether it is a fact that television viewers residing in remote areas,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.